AUTODOC CLUB

How to change front brake pads on **BMW E46 convertible** – replacement guide

VIDEO TUTORIAL

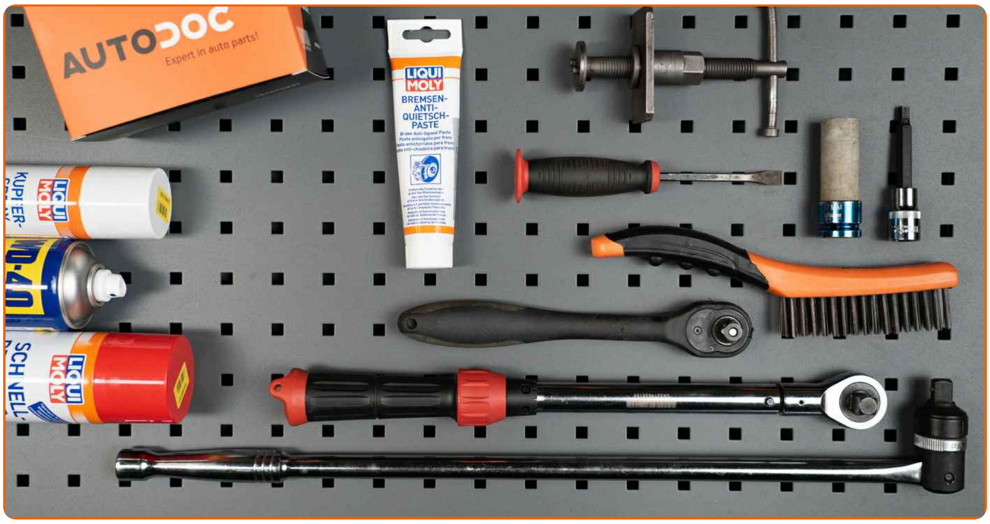


Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:
BMW 3 Saloon (E21) 315 1.6, BMW 3 Saloon (E21) 316 1.6, BMW 3 Saloon (E21) 316 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E21) 318 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E21) 318i 1.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E21) 320/6 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E21) 323i 2.3, BMW Z3 Roadster (E36) 1.9 i, BMW Z3 Roadster (E36) 1.8 i, BMW Z3 Roadster (E36) 2.8 i, BMW Z3 Coupe (E36) 2.8 i, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 318i 1.9, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 328i 2.8, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 320d 2.0, BMW 3 Saloon (E46) 323i 2.5, (+ 47)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW E46 CONVERTIBLE. TOOLS YOU MIGHT NEED:



- Wire brush
- Brake cleaner
- Copper grease
- Anti-squeal paste
- HEX bit No.H7.
- Wheel impact socket #17
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Brake caliper wind back tool
- Crow bar
- Wheel chock

BUY TOOLS

Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- Perform the replacement of brake pads in complete set for each axis. This provides effective braking.
- The replacement procedure is identical for all brake pads on the same axle.
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

REPLACEMENT: BRAKE PADS – BMW E46 CONVERTIBLE. USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

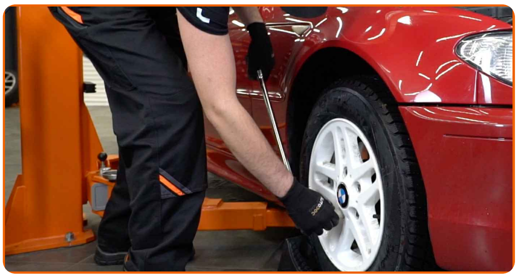
1 Open the bonnet. Unscrew the brake fluid reservoir cap.



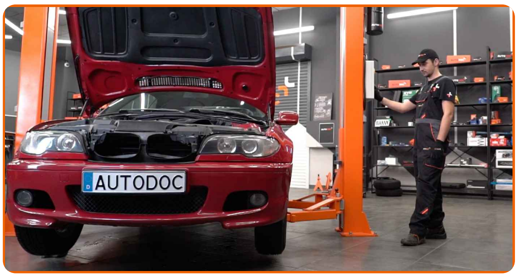
2 Secure the wheels with chocks.



3 Loosen the wheel mounting bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



4 Raise the front of the car and secure on supports.



5 Unscrew the wheel bolts.



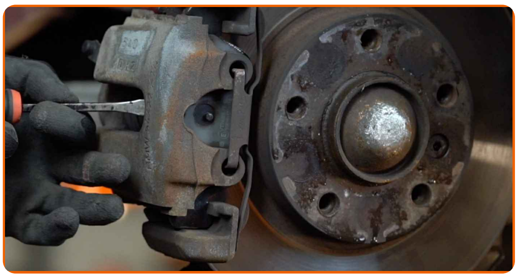
Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC recommends:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when unscrewing the bolts.

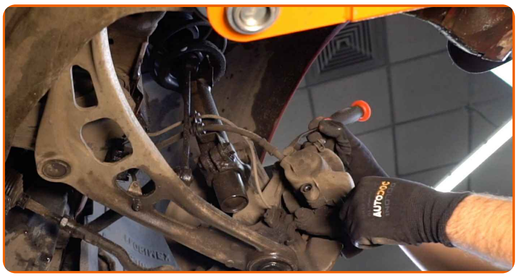
6 Remove the wheel.



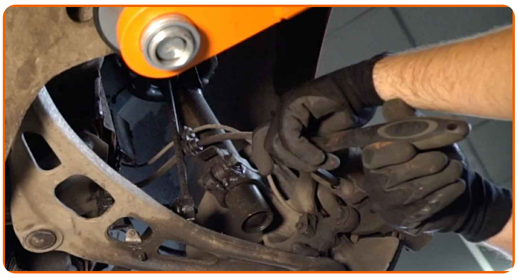
7 Spread the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



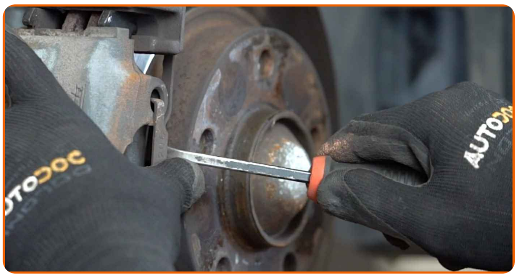
8 Remove the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins. Use a crowbar.



9 Unscrew the brake caliper fastening. Use HEX No.H7. Use a ratchet wrench.



10 Detach the brake caliper retaining spring. Use a crowbar.



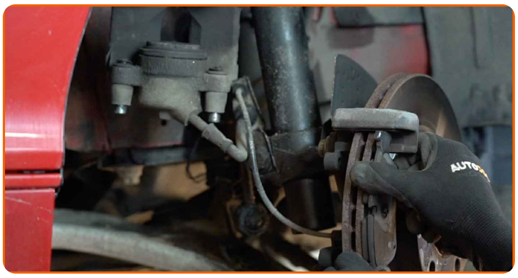
11 Remove the brake caliper.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Tip from AUTODOC:

- Tie the caliper to the suspension or to the body with a wire without disconnecting from the brake hose to prevent depressurization of the brake system.
- Make sure that the brake caliper is not hanging on the brake hose.
- Don't press the brake pedal after the brake caliper has been removed. As a result, the piston can fall out from the brake cylinder, and brake fluid leakage and depressurization of the system may occur.

12 Remove the brake pads. Use a crowbar.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Measure the brake disc thickness. Upon reaching the wear limit the part must be replaced.

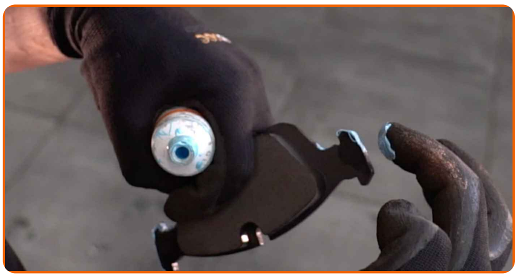
13 Clean the brake caliper bracket from dirt and dust. Use a wire brush. Use a brake cleaner.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

14 Treat the back side of the new brake pads. Use anti-squeal paste.



15 Treat the brake caliper piston. Use a brake cleaner.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Tip:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

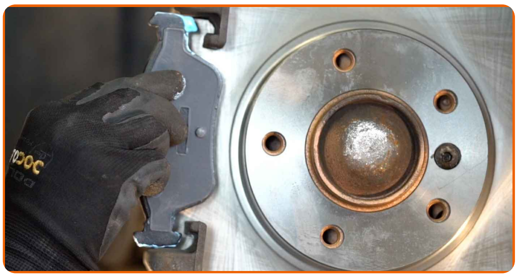
16 Press in the brake caliper piston. Use brake caliper wind back tool.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Professionals recommend:

- Make sure the disc surface is clean before installing the pads.

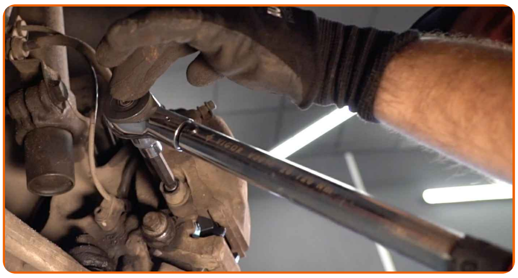
17 Install new brake pads.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC recommends:

- Make sure the pads are installed with linings facing the disc.

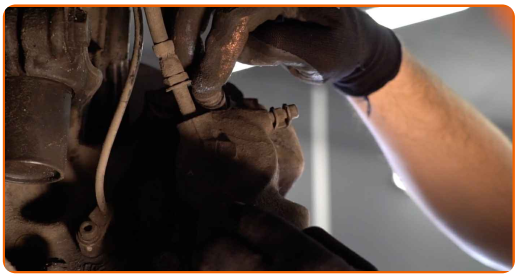
18 Install the brake caliper and fix it. Use HEX No.H7. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 30 Nm torque.



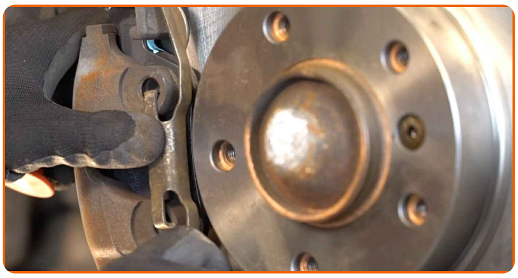
AUTODOC recommends:

- BMW E46 convertible – Without starting the engine, press the brake pedal several times until it feels firm.

19 Install the dust boot caps of the brake caliper guide pins.



20 Install the brake caliper retaining spring.



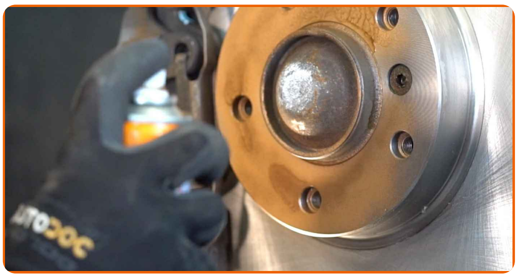
21 Clean the brake disk surface. Use a brake cleaner.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC experts recommend:

- After applying the spray, wait a few minutes.

22 Treat the surface where the brake disc contacts the wheel rim. Use copper grease.



23 Install the wheel.



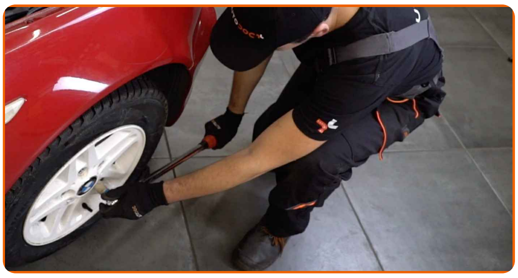
Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Tip from AUTODOC:

- To avoid injury, hold up the wheel when screwing in the fastening bolts.

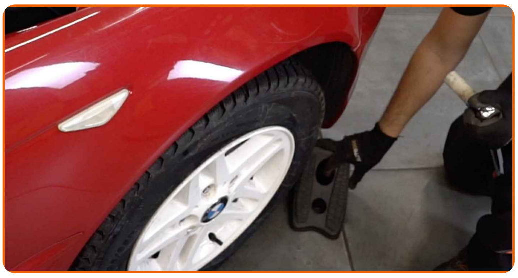
24 Screw in the wheel bolts. Use wheel impact socket #17.



25 Lower the car and working in a cross order, tighten the wheel bolts. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 120 nm torque.



26 Remove the jacks and chocks.



AUTODOC recommends:

- Important! Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. Check the brake fluid level in the reservoir and top up if necessary.

27 Tighten the brake fluid reservoir cap. Close the hood.



Replacement: brake pads – BMW E46 convertible. AUTODOC recommends:

- Slow down smoothly for first 150-200 km after the brake pads replacement. Avoid unneccessary and sharp braking to a stop.

WELL DONE!

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